

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

July 2017

State Fair Exhibits Inspire Water Conservation, Rain or Shine

Department of Water Resource's State Fair Exhibits Inspire Water Conservation, Rain or Shine Step-by-Step Guide to Replace Lawns with Water-Wise Landscape SACRAMENTO – California's five-year drought proved that water users up and down the state could achieve great water savings with planning and forethought. After a record winter of rain, many people are asking if water conservation is still important. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) answers that question at the 2017 California State Fair (July 14-30 at Cal Expo) with its colorful exhibit, "Water Conservation: Rain or Shine." The exhibit, located in the Farm area, showcases the beauty and abundance of water-wise gardens and landscapes and highlights the many reasons that Californians should continue a lifestyle of water conservation. **Despite a wet season, underground aquifers still need replenishment, and a changing climate will likely impact water supply.** Additionally, water-wise landscapes are beautiful, low maintenance, and save money. The best way to cut water consumption is by replacing a home's green lawn with a low-water-use landscape. Lawn watering can account for 50 percent or more of an urban household's water usage. DWR's "Water Conservation: Rain or Shine" exhibit features: § Step-by-step instructions on how to remove one's lawn and replace it with water-wise or edible landscaping; § Information about how to access up to \$2,000 in rebates for a lawn replacement project; § Demonstration gardens of water-wise plants and flowers that attract pollinators and beneficial insects; § Brochure identifying more than 50 water-wise plants and flowers featured in the exhibit; § Information on maintaining the health of our valuable trees; § Activities for kids and adults alike, including a water-wise garden quiz to earn poppy seeds. Kids Day at the Fair is on July 18 and 25. DWR staff will be at the Farm from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to help kids make a wick-watering planter and take home a water-wise or edible plant. In addition to the water-wise garden and landscape exhibit, DWR has prepared an exhibit to raise awareness about invasive quagga mussels and the threat they present to California's waterways. Visitors won't want to miss the supersized sculpture of a quagga mussel. DWR has collaborated with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to present new exhibits in the Insect Pavilion about beneficial and harmful insects.



The DWR "Water Conservation: Rain or Shine" exhibit and its conservation experts are located in The Farm adjacent to Building B.

In This Issue

Page 1: Water Conservation Remains a Priority

Page 2: Usage Chart for June 2017

Page 2: LRPC Notes

Page 3: General Manager's Report

Page 3: Have An Idea?

Page 4: President's Report

Long Range Planning Committee Notes

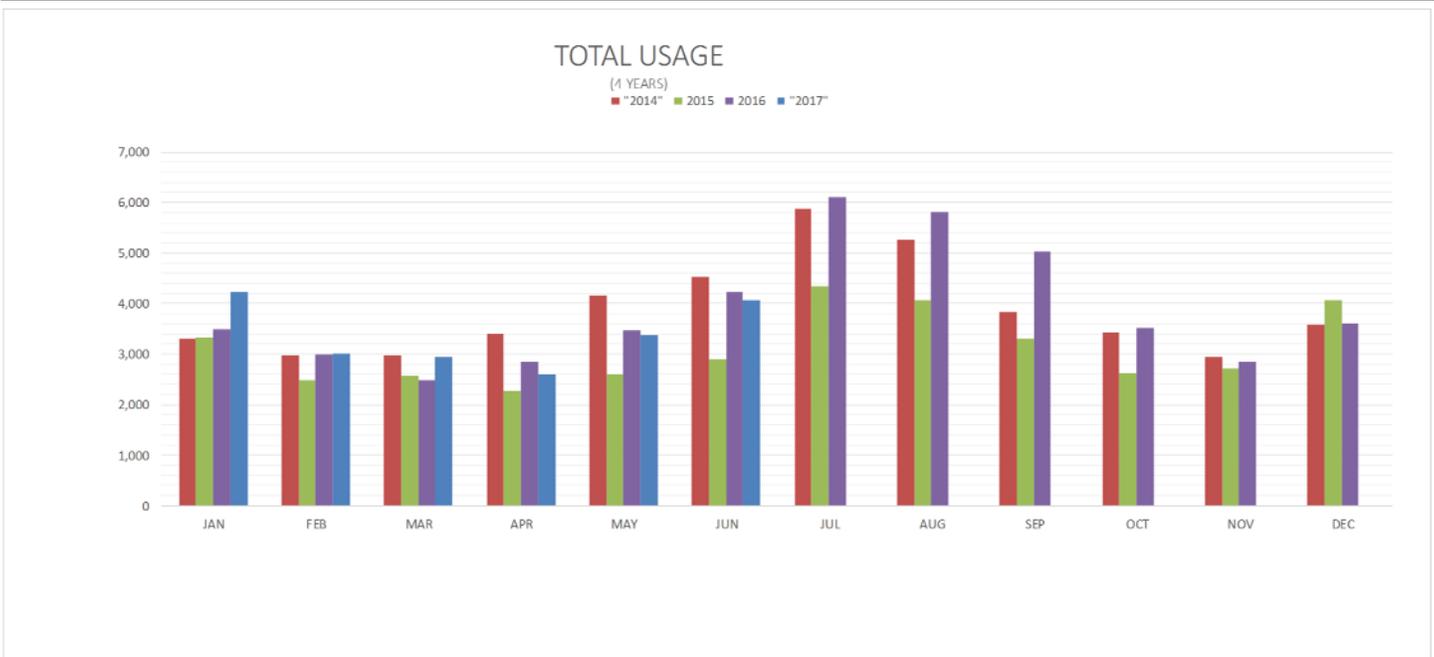
The BLSMWC Capital Improvement Plan to be financed through our approved United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Loan, as presented at the June 3rd Annual Shareholder's Meeting is progressing on schedule. MC Engineering was awarded the Engineering/Design portion of our project on June 12th based on the recommendation of the selection committee and a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. MC Engineering's proposal met all technical, cost and schedule requirements and has an excellent history and rapport working with our USDA counterparts.

Over the next few months there will be significant focus, based on field surveys, in determining the proposed water meter turnout locations for all new meters to be installed. Included in this process will be the distribution of a "Meter Location Sheet" provided to each shareholder, and interactive communications through "Public Outreach Workshops". During these workshops, the homeowner's responsibilities for installing the mainline pipe from the meter to the house will be discussed in detail.

As discussed at the Annual Shareholder's Meeting, the LRPC will continue to measure water usage for the remainder of 2017 based on an 87% increased sample size of up to 633 new meters installed. The meter usage data will be factored into our future rate structure for 2018 and beyond. At this point, the 2018 rate structure will be comprised of three fee components: (1) a USDA Loan financing surcharge for the meter and infrastructure capital improvements; (2) a Base Rate for water consumption up to a not-to-exceed monthly cubic foot allocation; and (3) an Extra Capacity Usage Fee for additional water consumption exceeding the monthly cubic foot allocation. Based on analysis to date, it is estimated that shareholder combined fees for #1 and #2 above will be comparable to the existing 2017 resident and lot fees.



Usage Chart for June 2017



General Manager's Report

Dear Shareholders,

Summer is here along with blazing hot days and cool nights. Our wells are humming along pumping water, and CCWD has plenty of water to sell. Here is a run down of the June usage numbers:

Usage

June

2013 5,738,000 gallons

2014 4,532,000

2015 2,908,000

2016 4,225,000

2017 4,062,000

You can see that we are on par with last year's usage.

Irrigation Systems

Please check your irrigation systems to make sure they are functioning properly. Timers can fail and the system won't shut off, and a lot of water can be wasted. Also, drip emitters can come off and the water can shoot out of that one broken spot, heavily watering the one spot and neglecting the other areas. If you are adding a new system, please notify us so we can check it for back-flow prevention.

USDA Loan Engineering Work

Some of you have noticed survey work going on, with white markings painted in the road. This is the beginning of the engineering design work that we are doing for our USDA Infrastructure Improvement/Meter Installation Project. Our old back-lot water mains will be eliminated, and new larger mains with hydrants will be installed in the street. The Engineering firm of MC Engineering will be designing these infrastructure improvements, and you may see them around Blue Lake Springs doing the necessary work to prepare for construction.

For more information on the Project, and it's effects on you, the shareholder, please check our website: www.blsmwc.com

Suspicious Activity

We are blessed with a low crime rate here in Arnold, but please alert us to any strange activity around our hydrants, tanks, or Treatment Plant. No one is allowed to take water from our hydrants, so if you see anything out of the ordinary, please report it to us.

That's all for now.

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Have an idea?

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events. The Bubbler is a "monthly" newsletter and comes out following a regular scheduled Board Meeting so that we can keep you up to date on the most current information.

If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact:

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President's Message

The Summer's Heat has caused a higher than usual water demand. The good news is that when compared to 2016, our customers are still conserving, as compared to years prior which means that YOUR conservation habits are still paying off in lower water usage!! Thank you!

If you attended the Annual Meeting of the Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company, you heard some questions asked by our Shareholders. I promised answers, they are as follows:

Does the Water Company know of any vendor that carries Leak Insurance?

Blue Lake Springs Water Co. belongs to many state-wide water organizations and the question was posed to them. The simple answer is no.

If my water line is relocated from the back of my property out to the utility right of way, does the Water Company complete the line from the meter to my house?

The water company provides a water source to your property. The homeowner is then responsible for the line from the meter to the dwelling.

What does it cost to run a line from the meter to the house?

This varies from lot to lot. The cost depends on the distance and travel line from the meter to the home. BLSMWC strongly encourages the homeowner to hire a licensed, bonded contractor to perform this task.

Over the past two months, a team from the Water Company authored a Request for Proposal (RFP) to choose an Engineering firm which would assist in handling the complexities of our USDA Loan. There were six interested firms and three answered the RFP. The three respondent firms were interviewed and their answers weighed and graded individually by the team's three members. Once the team's results were calculated, MC Engineering from Folsom, CA was chosen.

We owe a debt of thanks to the two Board members and the General Manager for their efforts on this very complex and critically important matter. Now that the engineering firm is in place, we have started some preliminary work on defining a schedule for the coming year as the loan unfolds.

MC Engineering will have dedicated staff working on the project and will be providing monthly updates as the mission progresses. These updates will be posted on our website....

What does this mean? Depending on where you live in BLS, you are likely to see activity in your neighborhood. We are going to make every effort to notify individual homeowners as the project of installing piping in the utility-right-of-way and installing a new radio read meters progresses.

In addition to new, larger capacity water lines, hydrants and residential meters, we will be upgrading the Water Treatment Plant. Finding water is one job but getting the water to your tap and answering the State's water purification program is a bit more difficult. Our current filtering system has this demand well in hand but parts get worn out and need to be replaced.

I would encourage everyone to review our website: blsmwc.com and stay up to speed on the happenings that are connected to the USDA project.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Bob Maginnis

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company

